

Director of Surgery, Director of Trauma, Director of Surgical Research, and Director of Medical Education. He has also served on various local and state wide committees including the American Hospital Association Region 2 Governance Board and on the President's Forum: The Acute Post Acute Hospital Continuum, a Member of the National Quality Forum steering Committee "National Voluntary Consensus Standards for emergency Care—Phase II Hospital based Emergency and Research Committee. Dr. Raju's professional society memberships include the American College of Physician Executives and the American College of Surgeons. He was recently selected as one of the top 25 minority health care executives in the country by Modern Health care Magazine.

Dr. Raju married a fellow resident he met at Madras Medical College, urologist Samantha Raju. They have a son and a daughter. Dr. Raju lives in Chicago's South Loop.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Raju for his successful career and his dedication to community health.

HONORING THE 125TH UNITED WAY
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of United Way as they proudly celebrate their 125th anniversary serving our communities both here at home and abroad.

In 1887, three visionaries saw the need to help their community and to address the welfare issues their city faced. Thus, the first United Way campaign was born, collecting over \$21,700 for local charitable organizations. Today, United Way exists in 1,800 communities and 41 countries, raising nearly \$5 billion every year to increase opportunities for a better life worldwide.

Forty million Americans are working in low-income jobs with little or no health benefits. In

2008, United Way began a 10-year initiative to cut these staggering statistics in half. United Way continues to look into the future, searching diligently for solutions that will benefit these families in the long-term.

United Way has impacted our community in New York's 15th congressional district in profound ways. For as long as I can remember, its New York City chapter has been dedicated to helping low-income families in terms of their health, education, and financial stability. From restoring child care and after-school funding, to helping over 3 million people make healthier choices by making fresh fruits and vegetables more affordable and available. United Way sees no issue as unimportant and continues to display altruism at the highest level.

In these tough economic times, when many people are facing daily struggles that push them to the brink of pure exhaustion, the work United Way does serves as a beacon of hope for those in need. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing and crucial organization within our community. I would like to personally praise the leadership of United Way Worldwide President & CEO Brian Gallagher, New York's United Way CEO Gordon Campbell, and every staffer and volunteer who diligently works behind the scenes. Their work does not go unnoticed. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to congratulate United Way on their 125th anniversary and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO MONICA THOMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Monica Thomas, a model servant of the needs of the public, a person dedicated to the importance of family, and native New Yorker. She is Division Director of Homeless Services at Volunteers of America and currently enrolled at Bernard Ba-

ruch College to obtain her second Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Monica Thomas was called to action. After realizing the devastating impacts of drug addiction she sought a career in Addiction Counseling. In her first job she counseled homeless men, who also suffered from addiction problems and mental illness, and eventually rising to Assistant Program Director. She sought to learn more about the populations she served and received a "JFK Jr. Fellowship" scholarship to pursue undergraduate studies at Empire State College in 1996 where she focused in Social Administration and Addiction Studies and received New York State Certification in Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment.

In 1999, Monica Thomas attended Hunter College School of Social Work for a Master's in Social Work with a Specialty in Aging Health. She developed and implemented a substance abuse treatment model specifically for the elderly population and was promoted to Program Director of the Elder Care Unit at Odyssey House. Additionally, she was nominated and received the New York State CASAC of the Year Award, the highest award bestowed upon individuals who hold a New York State Alcohol and Substance Abuse Certification. Monica received her New York State Social Work Certification immediately completing her graduate studies in 2003.

Monica then worked in an executive management position overseeing residential services for an agency that focused on assisting pregnant women recover from addiction, and subsequently was appointed Vice President of Clinical Operations for a drug treatment organization in Fairfield, Connecticut. In her various roles, she designed and developed systems and policies that met the growing needs of the population while simultaneously engaging with the community to gain support for the programs under her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Monica Thomas for her efforts advocating for the well-being of our disenfranchised fellow citizens.